

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02564 130856Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 /095 W
-----038872 130929Z /17

R 121656Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7270
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2564

E.O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UV
SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS ITS PRESIDENT

REF: OUAGA 2381

1. HAVING APPROVED ITS RULES AND PROCEDURES, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDED TO ELECT ITS BUREAU AFTERNOON JUNE 9. TWO CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WERE: GERARD KANGO OEUORAOGO, FORMER PRIME MINISTER, AND JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. DEPUTIES MEANWHILE HAD FORMED TWO PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS, ONE OF 29 DEPUTIES (RDA AND PRA) SUPPORTING PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WHICH CALLED ITSELF THE "UNION DES FORCES PROGRESSISTES VOLTAIQUES; AND ANOTHER OF 28 DEPUTIES, CALLED THE "FRONT UNI DE L'OPPOSITION", COMPOSED OF UPV, UNDD AND "FRONT DU REFUS RDA" DEPUTIES OPPOSED
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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 02564 130856Z

TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO RECEIVED 29 VOTES, WHILE JOSEPH OURRAOGO RECEIVED 28. THE ACTING PRESIDENT DELCARED GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, BUT THIS WAS CONTESTED BY THE SUPPORTERS OF JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO WHO CLAIMED THAT 29 VOTES DID NOT REPRESENT AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF 57DEPUTIES. ALL OPPOSITION DEPUTIES DECIDED

TO BOYCOTT ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS UNTIL SUPREME COURT HAS RULED ON VALIDITY OF GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO'S ELECTION.

2. IN ABSENCE OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTED ITS BUREAU MORNING JUNE 10. NEEDLESS TO SAY ALL VICE PRESIDENTS ARE EITHER RDA OR PRA, THEY ARE:
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MODOU SERE (PRA)
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: YENTENGOU THIOMBIANO (RDA)
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: BAMINA GEORGES NEBIE (RDA)
FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT: CASIMIR TAPSOBA (RDA)

3. COMMENT UPPER VOLTA'S NEARLY ESTABLISHED PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IS OFF TO A POOR START. WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALMOST EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE. MEANWHILE, CANDIDATES ESTABLISHED BY CONSTITUTION CANNOT BE RESPECTED SINCE SUPREME COURT HAS NOT YET RULED ON RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. IT WILL BE YET SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT LAMIZANA CAN BE SWORN IN AND CAN APPOINT A PRIME MINISTER. WITH GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO SAFELY OUT OF THE WAY AS CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER, SEVERAL NAMES ARE BEING MENTIONED, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER MOUSSA KARGOUGOU, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH CONOMBO
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PAGE 03 OUAGAD 02564 130856Z

AND MINISTER OF HEALTH TUIGA DOAMBA WHO IS "PRIME MINISTER" OF THE MORO NABA'S SHADOW CABINET. ANOTHER NAME ALSO BEING MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER IS PIERRE CLAVER DAMIBA, PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BASED IN LOME. DAMIBA IS A FORMER MINISTER OF PLAN, AND WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1970 AS MLN DEPUTY. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IN ORDER TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WILL HAVE TO SPLIT THE OPPOSITION. SINCE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN LAMIZANA ON ONE HAND AND FORMER PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO AND JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO ON THE OTHER DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A POSSIBILITY, THE PRESIDENT MUST WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE 9 UPV DEPUTIES LED BY PROFESSOR JOSEPH KI-ZERBO, DAMIBA, BEING A FORMER MEMBER OF KI-ZERBO'S PARTY, MAY PROVIDE THE MECHANISM WHICH WOULD BRING THE UPV ON THE SIDE OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OUAGAD02564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-0647
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780670/aaaachyg.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25c0568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OUAGADOUGOU 2381
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2393523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS ITS PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINT, UV, (OEUDRAOGO, GERARD KANGO), (OUEDRAOGO, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25c0568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014